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NEW VASCULAR PLANT COUNTY RECORDS FROM CENTRAL TEXAS

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ABSTRACT

Ten species of vascular plants are reported as new to Williamson, Burnet, Kendall, and/or Bastrop counties, Texas. The species are *Sisyrinchium angustifolium, Erigeron philadelphicus, Castilleja indivisa, Nolina texana, Forestiera pubescens, Parietaria pensylvanica, Zanthoxylum clava-herculis, Papaver somniferum, Ziziphus zizyphus*, and *Aesculus pavia*.

The author and Marie Greener collected 247 herbarium specimens in central Texas counties (Williamson, Burnet, Kendall, and Bastrop) from 26 March to 4 April 2011. Among these were a number of species not previously reported from those counties. A complete set of the specimens is housed at NY and a partial set of duplicates was distributed to TEX/LL. County distributions were determined using the Atlas of the Vascular Plants of Texas (Turner et al. 2003).

Sisyrinchium angustifolium Mill. (Iridaceae)

Williamson Co.: Between Liberty Hill and Leander, along the San Gabriel River, 30.623441N, 97.875048W (± 50 m), ca 267 m, 26 Mar 2011, *Atha & Greener 9514* (NY, TEX). Herbs; flowers purple with yellow center. River bluffs and floodplain.

This native North American species is common from Nova Scotia to Ontario, south to Minnesota, Kansas, Texas, and Florida. It occurs sporadically through east, central, and north Texas (Turner et al. 2003). Its apparent absence from Williamson County is probably a collecting or reporting artifact.

Erigeron philadelphicus L. (Asteraceae)

Williamson Co.: Between Liberty Hill and Leander, along the San Gabriel River, 30.623441N, 97.875048W (± 50 m), ca 267 m, 26 May 2011, *Atha & Greener 9515* (NY). Herbs; rays white. River bluffs and floodplain.

This native species occurs nearly throughout North America; absent only from Greenland, Labrador, Nunavut, Alaska, Arizona and Utah. In Texas it is concentrated around the urban centers of Houston, Austin, Waco, and Dallas-Ft. Worth, with scattered occurrences west to Kimble County (Turner et al. 2003).

Castilleja indivisa Engelm. (Scrophulariaceae)

Burnet Co.: Town of Marble Falls, corner of Ave N and Colorado St., 30.566901N, 98.287053W (± 25 m), ca 238 m, 30 Mar 2011, *Atha & Greener 9586* (NY). Herbs; stems purple; bracts green proximally, orange distally; flowers yellow green. Mown lot with few trees.

This species is endemic to Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. In Texas it occurs nearly throughout the eastern half of the state as far west as Tom Green County (Turner et al., 2003).

Nolina texana S. Watson (Agavaceae)

Burnet Co.: N of Marble Falls along US 281, at intersection with Coach Rd., 30.606326N, 98.267337W (± 25 m), ca 268 m, 30 Mar 2011, *Atha & Greener 9593* (NY, TEX). Herbs; flowers purplish. Rocky outcrop, relatively dry for area.

This is in part a Chihuahuan desert species, ranging from central Texas and southwestern Oklahoma, west to southeastern Arizona and northern Mexico. In Texas is it known from much of the Edwards Plateau and Trans-Pecos but has yet to be collected from several counties (e.g., Bexar, Kendall, Hays, Mason, Kimble).

Forestiera pubescens Nutt. (Oleaceae)

Burnet Co.: E of Granite Shoals, N of Lake LBJ and S of Ranch Road 1431, 30.583122N, 98.363923W (± 25 m), ca 271 m, 31 Mar 2011, *Atha & Greener 9601* (NY). Trees. Granite hilltop with savanna-like vegetation.

This species is native throughout much of the Edwards Plateau and northern plains and cross timbers region. Its apparent absence in Burnet and Blanco counties is undoubtedly an artifact of collecting or reporting.

Parietaria pensylvanica Muhl. ex Willd. (Urticaceae)

Kendall Co.: Ca 18 km N of Boerne on Guadeloupe River at Hwy 1376, 29.957312N, 98.717402W (± 25 m), 374 m, 31 Mar 2011, *Atha & Greener 9647* (NY). Herbs, stems reddish. Limestone terraces and alluvium along river.

This species is native throughout much of Texas. Its apparent absence in Kendall county is undoubtedly an artifact of collecting or reporting.

Zanthoxylum clava-herculis L. (Rutaceae)

Bastrop Co.: Ca 10.5 km NW of Bastrop, along the Colorado River at Tx Hwy 71, 30.168058N, 97.403063W (± 25 m), ca 107 m, 2 Apr 2011, *Atha & Greener 9673* (NY, TEX). Trees 4 m tall. Floodplain of the Colorado River.

This native species is widespread throughout nearly all of the eastern half of Texas, down to Refugio, but is nowhere abundant. It is not commonly collected, perhaps due to its spiny habit.

Papaver somniferum L. (Papaveraceae)

Bastrop Co.: Ca 10.5 km NW of Bastrop, along the Colorado River at Tx Hwy 71, 30.168058N, 97.403063W (± 25 m), ca 107 m, 2 Apr 2011, *Atha & Greener 9674* (NY). Herbs; sap clear. This plant in weedy strip of land near boat ramp. Floodplain of the Colorado River.

This plant was found growing at the edge of a paved road along a public-right-of-way. It probably escaped from cultivation by seed dispersal, perhaps from a nearby RV campground.. No other *Papaver* plants were seen in the vicinity.

Ziziphus zizyphus (L.) Karst. (Rhamnaceae)

Bastrop Co.: Town of Bastrop along N Main Street at old railroad crossing over creek, 30.131989N, 97.320977W (± 25 m), 106 m, 3 Apr 2011, *Atha & Greener 9681* (NY, TEX). Trees ca 2.5 m tall. There are hundreds of these young trees in an area about 100 square meters. Secondary woods along abandoned railroad.

This introduced species is not common in Texas. It is reported from only nineteen counties, these widely scattered from Jeff Davis, Hidalgo, Travis, and Grayson counties. It may be in the process of expanding its range.

Aesculus pavia L. (Hippocastanaceae)

Bastrop Co.: 6.7 km NW of Smithville along Tx Hwy 71, 30.055529N, 97.202876W (± 25 m), 112 m, 4 Apr 2011, *Atha & Greener 9734* (MO, MU, NY, TEX, W). Shrubs 1.5 m tall; calyx red; upper petals yellow-orange at the base, pink or salmon at the tips; anthers yellow. Dry secondary woods.

This beautiful native shrub is common throughout the southeastern USA from Virginia to Texas. Its occurrence in Bastrop County is not surprising and it is expected in Burleson, Lee, Caldwell, and Guadalupe counties as well.

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